



1977
**CENSUS OF
CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRIES**

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Industry Series

Preliminary Report

General Contractors—Nonresidential Buildings, Other Than Industrial Buildings and Warehouses

SIC 1542

During 1977, the establishments with payroll in this industry had business receipts of \$27.6 billion. Of this amount, \$27.3 billion were receipts for construction work, an increase of 15 percent compared with 1972. Their payments for construction work subcontracted to others amounted to \$14.3 billion leaving net construction receipts of about \$13.0 billion. Total average employment in the industry showed a decrease of 21 percent from 1972 to 312.5 thousand employees. Payroll for 1977 amounted to \$4.3 billion. Value added at \$7.3 billion in 1977 was 12 percent more than in 1972.

The General Contractors—Nonresidential Buildings, Other Than Industrial Buildings and Warehouses industry includes establishments primarily engaged as general contractors in the construction of commercial, institutional, religious, and amusement and recreational buildings (including new work, additions, alterations, remodeling, and repair). Construction of shopping centers, hospitals, schools, administrative and office buildings, nonresidential farm buildings, and service stations and garages is also included. General contractors of industrial buildings and warehouses are classified in industry 1541. For a more detailed description, see the 1972 SIC Manual.¹

For this census, a "construction establishment" was defined as a relatively permanent office or other place of business at which or from which the usual business activities related to construction were conducted. A separate census report was required from each establishment but not from each construction site. Instead, the data for work at each site were included in the report from the appropriate office or branch office. Foreign construction activities were not included in this census.

The 1977 Census of Construction Industries is the sixth census of construction establishments in the United States. As in previous years, it was conducted jointly with the censuses of mineral industries, manufactures, retail trade, wholesale trade, and service industries under authority of title 13 of the United States Code. Although the first construction census was

conducted covering 1929, only the data from the censuses of 1967 and 1972 are comparable with the 1977 data.

The 1977 estimates for establishments with payroll in all of the construction industries are based on reports from a probability sample of approximately 181,000 establishments selected from about 536,000 construction establishments with payroll. The sample included all construction establishments with a payroll equivalent of 15 or more full-time employees and a sample of those with fewer employees. There were two exceptions: In SIC 1521, sampling was employed in establishments with less than 20 employees because of the large number of establishments in that industry; in SIC 1795, all known establishments were included because of the very small number of establishments in that industry. The data obtained from the sample were inflated to represent all construction establishments with payroll. Complete descriptions of the sampling and estimating procedures will be included in the final reports.

Since the data in this report are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability and may be expected to differ from results which would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken using the same schedules and procedures. The standard error shown in the tables is a measure of sampling variability, i.e., the variation that might occur by chance because only a sample of the population was surveyed. As calculated for this report, the standard error partially incorporates the effect of random errors of response, but it does not take into account the effect of any consistent biases due to those types of errors. The chances are about 68 out of 100 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a complete census by less than the standard error. The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the difference is less than twice the standard error.

¹ Standard Industrial Classification Manual: 1972. For sale by Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Stock No. 4101-0066. Price \$6.75. 1977 Supplement. Stock No. 003-005-00176-0. Price 90 cents.



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Table 1. Detailed Statistics for Establishments With Payroll: 1977, 1972, and 1967

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	General contractors--nonresidential buildings, other than industrial buildings and warehouses (1542)			Standard error of estimate (percent)		
	1977	1972	1967	1977	1972	1967
Number of establishments.....	18,402	25,658	22,358	2	2	2
Proprietors and working partners.....	7,451	13,027	14,240	3	3	3
All employees:						
March.....	281,075	352,946	345,664	1	1	1
May.....	310,340	384,435	378,156	1	1	1
August.....	337,035	427,600	420,678	1	1	1
November.....	320,671	402,569	388,619	1	1	1
Average.....	312,496	395,059	385,256	1	1	1
Construction workers:						
March.....	225,374	292,522	297,729	1	1	1
May.....	253,158	322,614	329,334	1	1	1
August.....	279,216	364,165	367,762	1	1	1
November.....	262,922	338,932	339,159	1	1	1
Average.....	255,383	332,741	333,709	1	1	1
Other employees:						
March.....	55,701	60,424	48,155	1	1	1
May.....	57,182	61,821	49,007	1	1	1
August.....	57,819	63,435	51,541	1	1	1
November.....	57,750	63,637	49,534	1	1	1
Average.....	57,202	62,346	50,246	1	1	1
Payroll, all employees.....	4,289,123	3,991,172	2,638,209	1	1	1
Payroll, construction workers.....	3,204,431	3,147,519	2,137,389	1	1	1
Payroll, other employees.....	1,084,692	843,653	500,010	1	1	1
First quarter payroll, all employees.....	893,710	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Employer costs for fringe benefits.....	867,521	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Legally required expenditures.....	484,317	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Voluntary expenditures.....	383,205	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
All business receipts.....	27,564,177	24,034,963	15,673,675	1	1	1
Total construction receipts.....	27,302,971	23,789,051	15,491,101	1	1	1
Receipts for work subcontracted in from others.....	403,334	372,407	282,271	2	3	12
Other business and land receipts.....	261,206	245,912	178,898	2	2	2
Net construction receipts.....	12,985,148	11,141,896	7,383,963	1	1	1
Value added.....	7,298,993	6,500,530	4,174,004	1	1	1
Selected payments.....	20,265,170	17,534,433	11,479,066	1	1	1
Materials, components, and supplies.....	5,695,938	¹ 4,887,278	¹ 3,378,499	1	1	1
Construction work subcontracted to others.....	14,317,823	12,647,155	8,101,093	1	1	1
Selected power, fuels, and lubricants.....	251,410	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Electricity.....	53,729	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Natural gas.....	26,835	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Gasoline and diesel fuel.....	127,136	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Lubricating oils and greases.....	34,136	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	9,575	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Rental payments for machinery, equipment, and structures.....	186,409	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
For machinery and equipment.....	148,977	165,973	96,058	1	3	1
For structures.....	37,432	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Selected purchased services.....	193,388	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Communication.....	77,000	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to structures and related facilities.....	16,513	(NA)	(NA)	3	(NA)	(NA)
Repairs to machinery and equipment.....	99,876	(NA)	(NA)	1	(NA)	(NA)
Capital expenditures.....	326,932	223,278	151,066	2	2	2
New.....	278,527	189,910	127,162	3	2	2
Structures and related facilities.....	91,937	60,228	55,367	7	6	3
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	186,590	129,682	71,795	1	1	2
Automobiles and trucks intended primarily for highway use.....	86,458	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)
Used.....	48,406	33,368	23,904	4	3	3
Structures and related facilities.....	11,094	11,825	8,285	14	3	6
Machinery and equipment, including automobiles and trucks.....	37,312	21,543	15,619	3	3	2
Fixed assets and depreciation:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	2,032,266	1,479,528	(NA)	1	1	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	1,015,163	698,547	(NA)	1	1	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	1,017,103	780,981	(NA)	2	1	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	174,052	136,282	(NA)	1	2	(NA)
Structures, additions, and related facilities:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	665,266	463,192	(NA)	2	2	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	223,346	117,201	(NA)	2	2	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	441,921	345,991	(NA)	3	2	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	28,954	21,856	(NA)	3	3	(NA)
Machinery and equipment:						
Gross book value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	1,367,000	1,016,336	(NA)	1	1	(NA)
Accumulated depreciation at end of year.....	791,818	581,346	(NA)	1	1	(NA)
Net value of depreciable assets at end of year.....	575,182	434,990	(NA)	1	2	(NA)
Depreciation charges during year.....	145,099	114,426	(NA)	1	2	(NA)

¹ Includes data for power, fuels, and lubricants, now shown separately.

Table 2. Construction Receipts for Establishments With Payroll by Type of Construction: 1977 and 1972

(Thousands of dollars. Detailed figures may not add to totals because of rounding. For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see text)

Item	General contractors--nonresidential buildings, other than industrial buildings and warehouses (1542)		Standard error of estimate (percent)	
	1977	1972	1977	1972
Construction receipts.....	27,302,971	23,789,051	1	1
Building construction.....	25,261,551	22,623,294	1	1
Single-family houses.....	500,242	367,181	2	3
Apartment buildings.....	535,170	772,789	1	1
Other residential buildings.....	397,373	495,048	1	1
Farm buildings.....	853,914	(NA)	2	(NA)
Industrial buildings and warehouses.....	2,834,905	2,147,821	1	1
Office and bank buildings.....	5,323,905	5,215,106	1	1
Stores, restaurants, public garages, and automobile service stations.....	4,060,565	3,273,613	1	1
Religious buildings.....	900,488	621,578	2	2
Educational buildings.....	4,111,715	4,868,591	1	1
Hospitals and institutional buildings.....	4,426,080	3,196,955	1	1
Amusement, social, and recreational buildings.....	677,504	763,326	2	2
Other nonresidential buildings.....	639,690	901,286	2	3
Nonbuilding construction.....	1,218,195	665,658	1	1
Construction work not specified by kind.....	823,379	500,099	2	4

Note: See text for explanation of duplication.

This report does not include figures for separate administrative offices, warehouses, garages, or other auxiliary units which service construction establishments of the same company. Data for separate central administrative offices and auxiliaries are collected in the enterprise statistics survey, a part of the economic censuses.

This report is one in a series presenting preliminary data collected in the 1977 Census of Construction Industries. The universe for this census included all establishments classified in the construction industries (SIC's 15, 16, 17, and 6552). This report will be superseded by a more detailed final report. In addition to data for establishments with payroll presented here, the final Industry Summary report and the reports in the Geographic Area Series will present limited data for construction establishments with no payroll during 1977.

The totals of construction receipts reported by all construction establishments in each of the several industry, State, or other groupings in this census contain varying amounts of duplication, since the construction work (and the receipts) of one firm may be subcontracted out to other construction firms and, therefore, will be included in the subcontractor's receipts. To avoid this duplication, a "net construction receipts" figure has been derived by subtracting the payments made for construction work subcontracted to others from the construction receipts.

Usually, "value added" is the best measure for comparing the relative economic importance of industries or areas. It eliminates the duplication in receipts because of subcontracting. It also eliminates from the output measure the cost of materials, which differs in relative importance among areas and industries. For this census, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less payments for construction work subcontracted to others and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels. However, for industries for which land receipts are significant, "value added" is equal to all business receipts less land receipts, payments for construction work subcontracted to others, and payments for materials, components, supplies, and fuels.

The symbols in the tables mean:

- Represents zero.
- D Withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies; figures are included in higher level totals.
- S Withheld because estimates did not meet publication standards on the basis of either the associated standard error or a consistency review.
- Z Standard error of estimate is greater than zero but less than 1 percent.
- a Sampling error is greater than 40 percent.
- NA Not available; data were not collected.

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